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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2000

## PITTSBURGH AREA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 1999

A total of 34 work-related fatalities were reported in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in 1999, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Alan M. Paisner, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that work-related fatalities in the MSA decreased slightly over the year. Transportation-related deaths (12) was the leading cause of the workplace fatalities in the Pittsburgh area accounting for over one-third of the total. (See table A.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries for selected events, Pittsburgh area, 1993-99

Year	Total fatalities	<u>Transportation related</u>		<u>Homicides</u>	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Pittsburgh, MSA					
1993	44	11	25	--	--
1994 <sup>1</sup>	148	113	76	4	3
1995	39	15	38	3	8
1996	49	22	45	--	--
1997	53	26	49	--	--
1998	38	9	24	--	--
1999	34	12	35	5	15
Allegheny County					
1993	19	3	16	--	--
1994	31	6	19	3	10
1995	21	9	43	3	14
1996	18	8	44	--	--
1997	19	8	42	--	--
1998	22	3	14	--	--
1999	19	6	32	3	16

<sup>1</sup> Total fatalities include a single, catastrophic airplane crash that claimed the lives of 101 persons in work status.

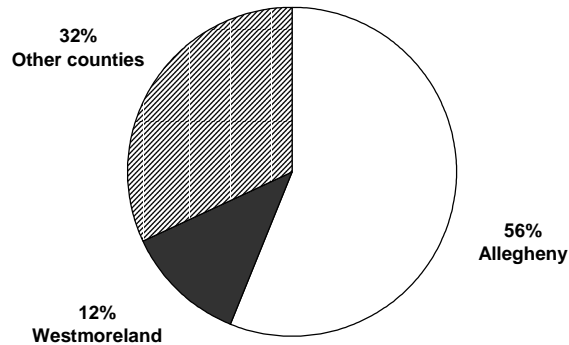
NOTE: Categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

The Pittsburgh MSA is comprised of six counties. Over half of all fatal work injuries occurred in Allegheny County which includes the city of Pittsburgh. No other county in the MSA accounted for more than 12 percent of the workplace deaths.

As in the Pittsburgh MSA, job-related deaths were down in Pennsylvania, falling by 14 over the year to 221 in 1999. The leading cause of work-related deaths in the State in 1999 was highway incidents, which accounted for one-fourth of the total.

Nationwide, the number of fatal work injuries was 6,023, nearly the same as the previous year's total despite an increase in employment. On a detailed level, highway incidents continued as the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities during 1999, accounting for one-fourth of the fatal work injury total. Decreases in job-related deaths from homicides and electrocutions in 1999 were offset by increases from workers struck by falling objects or caught in running machinery. (See table B.)

Chart 1. Distribution of workplace fatalities by county of occurrence, Pittsburgh, PA, MSA, 1999



Summary data show that transportation incidents, which includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water and rail fatalities, accounted for 43 percent of all fatal occupational injuries nationwide. Contact with objects and equipment, which includes struck by an object, caught in equipment and crushed in collapsing materials, made up 17 percent of on-the-job deaths while assaults and violent acts, which includes homicides and suicides, accounted for 15 percent. On average, about 17 workers were fatally injured each day in the United States during 1999.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries for selected events, United States, 1993-99

Year	Total fatalities	Transportation related		Homicides	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
1993	6,331	2,499	39	1,074	17
1994	6,632	2,762	42	1,080	16
1995	6,275	2,587	41	1,036	17
1996	6,202	2,601	42	927	15
1997	6,238	2,605	42	860	14
1998 <sup>1</sup>	6,055	2,645	44	714	12
1999	6,023	2,613	43	645	11

<sup>1</sup>The BLS national news release issued August 4, 1999, reported a total of 6,026 fatal work injuries for calendar year 1998. Since then, an additional 29 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 1998 to 6,055.

This release presents the results from the 1999 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a program conducted jointly with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in which all 50 States and the District of Columbia participate. The program provides workplace fatality data by occupational, industrial, and demographic characteristics as well as type of event.

Key elements of the results for the Pittsburgh MSA follow:

- On a detailed level, the leading causes of work-related fatalities were highway incidents and being struck by an object which accounted for seven deaths each. Falls to a lower level caused six fatalities and homicides, five. (See table 1.)
- Of those who were fatally injured in 1999, 94 percent were white and 88 percent were men.
- Workers aged 25-54--the prime working age group--experienced about two-thirds of the fatalities in 1999. (See table 2.)

Key elements of the results for the Pittsburgh MSA follow: (continued)

- Workers in the construction industry made up 29 percent of the fatalities; those in services accounted for 21 percent. (See table 3.)
- Occupational groups with the most workplace deaths were transportation and material moving operations (9) and construction trades workers (5). (See table 4.)
- Truck drivers accounted for 15 percent of all area deaths. Three of the five truck driver deaths were due to highway-related incidents.
- Over four-fifths of workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed.

### **TECHNICAL NOTES**

The source for all tables is the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1999, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Information on fatal occupational injuries was compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic incident reports, medical examiners reports, Pennsylvania and Federal workers' compensation reports, and other government investigative reports. Each fatality was substantiated by either two independent source documents or one source document and a follow-up questionnaire to the employer or other contact (excluding next-of-kin) who had knowledge about the circumstances of the incident.

While the purpose of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is to compile a complete count of traumatic workplace fatalities, information was also collected on fatal occupational illnesses that were recognized as work-related or that occurred at work. (There is not necessarily a causal relationship implied for illness deaths occurring at work.) A comprehensive count of fatalities resulting from occupational illnesses cannot be produced from current data largely because of the latency period associated with many occupational illnesses, as well as the difficulty in associating illnesses with exposures in the workplace. Therefore, fatal occupational illnesses are excluded from the tables.

The CFOI program is designed to provide the safety and health community with verified counts of fatal work injuries as well as basic information on fatalities that can be used to help prevent future fatalities in the workplace.

Data collection in Pennsylvania has provided reliable data on the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the incident that caused the fatality. Such data are needed to develop strategies for preventing fatal work-related injuries.

The Pittsburgh MSA consists of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, Pittsburgh area, 1999

Event or exposure <sup>1</sup>	Pittsburgh MSA		Allegheny County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	34	100	19	100
Transportation incidents.....	12	35	6	32
Highway.....	7	21	4	21
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	3	9	--	--
Noncollision.....	3	9	--	--
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises).....	4	12	--	--
Noncollision.....	4	12	--	--
Assaults and violent acts .....	5	15	3	16
Homicides.....	5	15	3	16
Contact with objects and equipment .....	7	21	4	21
Struck by object.....	7	21	4	21
Struck by falling object.....	6	18	4	21
Falls .....	7	21	4	21
Fall to lower level.....	6	18	3	16
Exposure to harmful substances or environments..	3	9	--	--

<sup>1</sup>Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.  
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by selected demographic characteristics, Pittsburgh area, 1999

Characteristic	Pittsburgh MSA		Allegheny County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	34	100	19	100
<u>Employee status</u>				
Wage and salary workers.....	28	82	16	84
Self-employed <sup>1</sup> .....	6	18	3	16
<u>Sex and age</u>				
Men .....	30	88	--	--
Women .....	4	12	--	--
Both sexes:				
under 25 years.....	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	12	35	8	42
45 to 54 years.....	8	24	4	21
55 to 64 years.....	6	18	4	21
65 years and over.....	4	12	--	--
<u>Race</u>				
White .....	32	94	17	89

<sup>1</sup>Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.  
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, Pittsburgh area, 1999

Industry	SIC code <sup>1</sup>	Pittsburgh MSA		Allegheny County	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....		34	100	19	100
Private sector:.....		32	94	17	89
Construction .....		10	29	6	32
Special trade contractors.....	17	6	18	3	16
Miscellaneous special trade contractors	179	3	9	--	--
Manufacturing .....		4	12	--	--
Transportation.....		4	12	4	21
Trucking and warehousing.....	42	3	9	3	16
Trucking and courier services, except air	421	3	9	3	16
Services.....		7	21	4	21
Health services.....	80	3	9	--	--

<sup>1</sup>Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition.

NOTE: Government includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

(See note at end of tables.)

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation, Pittsburgh area, 1999

Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Pittsburgh MSA		Allegheny County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	34	100	19	100
Managerial and professional specialty .....	4	12	--	--
Technical, sales, and administrative support.....	4	12	--	--
Administrative support, including clerical .....	3	9	--	--
Service occupations.....	3	9	--	--
Farming, forestry, and fishing .....	4	12	--	--
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	5	15	--	--
Construction trades.....	5	15	--	--
Construction trades, except supervisors .....	3	9	--	--
Operators, fabricators, and laborers .....	14	41	10	53
Transportation and material moving operations	9	26	7	37
Motor vehicle operators.....	7	21	5	26
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	4	12	--	--

<sup>1</sup>Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.